

REMARKS

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 15 – 30 are pending. No claims have been amended, canceled or added by this reply.

II. REJECTION OF THE CLAIMS

In the outstanding office action, the Examiner has rejected all the claims as being obvious over a combination of references. All combinations cited by the Examiner are based upon the primary reference JP 05-202382.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiners rejections.

In the outstanding office action, the Examiner has rejected the pending claims on the grounds that the cited references establish prima facie obviousness. Although applicants do not necessarily concede that prima facie obviousness can be made out on the basis of the patent documents cited by the Examiner, it is believed that the subject matter of the present claims produces unexpected results relative to the disclosures contained in the cited patent documents. Examples of such unexpected results are mentioned in the present specification and are exemplified. However, in order to more fully meet the Examiners objections and to facilitate prosecution of the present application, applicants have filed concurrently herewith a petition to suspend prosecution for a period of six (6) months to further develop and present the data necessary to clearly establish such unexpected results in view of JP 05-202382.

III. CONCLUSION

The claims pending in the present application are believed to define subject matter which is patentable over the prior art, and applicants request suspension of prosecution in order to develop the necessary data to support the patentability of the pending claims.

If any additional fees are required to further the prosecution of this application, the Office is authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1943.

Respectfully submitted,

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